

***Governing Iowa's public
universities and special schools***

University of Iowa
Iowa State University
University of Northern Iowa
Iowa School for the Deaf
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School
Lakeside Laboratory
Quad-Cities Graduate Center
Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center
Tri-State Graduate Center



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Gary W. Steinke, *Executive Director*

January 16, 2007

The Hon. Thomas G. Courtney
State Senator
Chair – Senate Govt. Oversight Comm.
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

The Hon. Vicki Lensing
State Representative
Chair – House Govt. Oversight Comm.
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Senator Courtney and Representative Lensing:

As requested in HF 2527, on behalf of the Board of Regents, I am submitting a report to describe the activities of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School for the month of December 2006.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Steinke

cc: Governor Chet Culver
Interim Superintendent Jeananne Schild
Legislative Liaisons
Legislative Log
Mary Shipman
Sam Leto
Douglas Wulf
Bruce Brandt
Jake Friedrichsen
Bridget Godes
Russ Trimble

Attachment – Monthly Report

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BOARD OF REGENTS, STATE OF IOWA
IBSSS MONTHLY REPORT
DECEMBER 2006

IBSSS continues to address the implementation of the Task Force recommendations especially in light of the three key areas that are guiding the work of the School in 2006-07:

- ◆ Finalize cooperative agreements among the Board of Regents, Department of Education, area education agencies, and the Department for the Blind to develop a statewide service delivery system for students who are blind or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities.
- ◆ Continue to improve efficiency and effectiveness of services supported by the Vinton site faculty and staff, including continued development of flexible and innovative services delivered in regional locations as needed and continued work with Iowa State University to finalize recommendations for efficient use of physical facilities in concert with the feasibility study.
- ◆ Develop and implement a comprehensive professional development plan that will provide all Iowa service providers, including the IBSSS faculty and staff, with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute effectively to the continuous improvement of services to children who are blind or visually impaired and their families.

The following describe the School's activities during December 2006:

- ◆ The plans to renovate the second floor of Old Main were finalized.
- ◆ IBSSS staff members met with staff at Kirkwood Community College to discuss KCC's program for special education students in their fifth year of high school. A year-long pilot transition program will be offered at Kirkwood for older students who are blind or visually impaired. Students will attend the Kirkwood program during the day and IBSSS in the evening where they will concentrate on life skills specific to vision.
- ◆ An action team consisting of IBSSS educational administrators and representatives from the Iowa Department for the Blind met to discuss summer and short-term programs. The action team is also preparing information for teachers of the visually impaired and certified orientation and mobility specialists about the future direction of programs.
- ◆ Staff and administration from the School and from the Iowa Department for the Blind began writing action steps to determine areas for collaboration and cooperation and a common philosophy of blindness.
- ◆ The State Vision Consultant presented a statewide ICN follow-up session on the expanded core curriculum and use of a new procedure manual and resource guide.

BOARD OF REGENTS, STATE OF IOWA
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- ◆ Through a grant partnership with Grant Wood AEA 10 and Kirkwood Community College, proactive emergency planning is available to schools in the area. The School reviewed its emergency response plans in preparation for a baseline assessment and for National Incident Management System/Incident Command training. Upon completion of the training, the School will be eligible to apply for safety equipment and training funding.
- ◆ IBSSS staff met with staff from the Center for Developmental Disabilities and Ask Resource Center to discuss the School's participation in the Self-Advocacy and Leadership for Youth with Disabilities project.
- ◆ The Vinton Lions Club held its annual Christmas dinner and gift distribution.
- ◆ School leadership facilitated Quality Programming for the Visually Impaired (QPVI) for Grant Wood AEA 10. The AEA 10 vision team developed a web board to share master list information, caseloads, schedules, referral information, assessment tools/tips, and instructional strategies. This effort addresses the statewide improvement of instruction and consistency that the School supports through the QPVI process.
- ◆ Through a joint effort with the Iowa Department for the Blind, the School addressed the needs of students who are not eligible for National Instructional Materials Access Standards.
- ◆ Two archivists from the Herbert Hoover National Museum visited the School by invitation and exchanged information about the history of the School and how to archive information properly and how to make archived information available to Iowa citizens.
- ◆ IBSSS staff worked on expanded core curriculum assessments and future program planning.
- ◆ There continue to be 26 students enrolled full-time, including four day students.

This monthly report is being submitted to the Government Oversight Committee to meet the requirements of HF 2527.